

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material comprising a solid bioabsorbable substrate dyed with an antioxidant dyestuff, wherein the solid bioabsorbable substrate comprises oxidized cellulose and is selected from the group consisting of woven fabrics, nonwoven fabrics, freeze-dried sponges, solvent-dried sponges and combinations thereof.

Claim 2. (Cancelled)

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to claim [4] 1, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of aniline dyes, acridine dyes, thionine dyes, bis-naphthalene dyes, thiazine dyes, azo dyes, anthraquinones, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to claim [4] 1, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is selected from the group consisting of gentian violet, aniline blue, methylene blue, crystal violet, acriflavine, 9-aminoacridine, acridine yellow, acridine orange, proflavin, quinacrine, brilliant green, trypan blue, trypan red, malachite green, azacrine, methyl violet, methyl orange, methyl yellow, ethyl violet, acid orange, acid yellow, acid blue, acid red, thioflavin, alphazurine, indigo blue, methylene green, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing material according to claim 6, wherein the antioxidant dyestuff is present in an amount of from about 0.2 to about 2wt.% based on the dry weight of the material.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing material according to claim 7, wherein the material further comprises a silver salt, whereby the dyestuff photostabilizes the silver salt.

Claim 9. (Original) A wound dressing material according to claim 8, wherein the polymeric substrate comprises an anionic polymer, and said silver salt comprises a salt of Ag^+ with the anionic polymer.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing material according to claim 9, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01wt.% to about 5wt.% of silver, based on the dry weight of the composition.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing material according to claim 7, wherein the material is in sheet form.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing material according to claim 7, wherein the material is sterile and packaged in a microorganism-impermeable container.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing material according to claim 7, wherein the material has a free radical activity in the diphenylpicrylhydrazyl (DPPH) test for antioxidant activity ~~as herein defined~~ of at least about 15%.

Claims 14-19 (canceled)

Claim 15 (New) A wound dressing material according to claim 1, wherein the oxidized cellulose is an oxidized regenerated cellulose.